

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004. Claims 1-21 were rejected. The claims have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-21 were originally presented. Claims 1-21 remain in the application. No claims have been canceled. Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 15-20 have been amended. No claims have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action states that the term “initial” in claims 1, 9, and 18 is not defined by the claims, the specification does not provide a standard definition, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Claims 1, 9, and 18 have been amended to correct the problem.

Claims 2, 10, and 19 recited the limitation “the computer application” for which there is no antecedent basis. The claims have been amended to correct this problem.

Claims 2, 10, and 19 included the language “the initial version includes the respective version...” This language has been removed from the claims.

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected for being unclear because of the inclusion of the step of “determining the initial version” since the initial version was identified in claims 1 and 9 respectively. Claims 3 and 11 have been amended to clarify the language.

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected for reciting the limitation “objects” with no antecedent basis. The claims have been amended to correct the antecedent basis problem.

Finally, claim 17 recites the limitation “different time stamps” with insufficient antecedent basis. The claim has been amended to correct the antecedent basis problem.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 (including independent claims 1, 9, and 18) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ching (USPN 5,560,620), hereafter “Ching” in view of Leblang et al. (USPN 5,649,200), hereafter “Leblang”.

The present invention, as claimed in independent claim 1, is a method for verifying a version of each of a plurality of object files in a computer program. An object file, as defined by wikipedia.com, is an intermediate representation of code generated by a compiler after it processes a source code file. When different versions of software developer kits are used to generate object files, subtle errors can result in the computer programs comprising the object files having differing versions. Thus, the present invention enables a version of the software developer kit to be placed within each object file, enabling each object file in a computer program to be verified as being generated by the same software developer’s kit as the other object files that comprise the computer program. If comparisons show two or more versions, an error message can be generated alerting to the problem.

The Ching and Leblang references, when combined, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. Specifically, the Leblang reference does not teach comparing a version of a selected object file in a program having a plurality of object files with versions of the remaining object files in the computer program, and the Ching reference does not overcome that deficiency.

Leblang discloses a method for controlling versions of file system objects such as files, directories, and links. (See Leblang Col. 1 Line 67 to Col. 2 line 5). A file system object is not an object file. Leblang does not disclose generating an alert in response to versions of object files being different from one another.

Ching discloses a hierarchal document comparison system. (See abstract). Ching does not disclose comparing a version of a selected object file with versions of other object files in a computer program. Ching discloses a method for comparing the contents of documents. In contrast, the present invention does not compare the contents of the object files, only the version of the object files in a computer program. Claim 1 reads, in part:

**comparing the version of the selected object file with a version of each
of remaining object files of the plurality of object files; and**

generating an alert in response to the version of the selected object file being different than one or more versions of the remaining object files.

Combining the teachings of Leblang and Ching would not result in the current invention. Rather, it would result in a method of comparing file system objects, such as files, directories, and links. It would not result in a method for verifying a version for each of a plurality of object files in a computer program and generating an alert if there is more than one version of object files within the computer program. Therefore, rejection of claim 1 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The same arguments can be applied to independent claims 9 and 18, which are similar in structure to claim 1.

Rejection of the dependent claims 2-8, 10-16, and 19-21 should be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims. The dependent claims, being narrower in scope, are allowable for at least the reasons for which the independent claims are allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16 and 18-21 are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Independent claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman-Amuah (US Pub. No. 2001/0052108), hereafter “Bowman”, in view of Ching (USPN 5,560,620), hereafter “Ching”.

Bowman discloses an architectural framework for developing a project. (See Bowman Page 1, ¶ 0008 – 0011). Bowman does not disclose a time stamp used to identify a version of a software developer’s kit for each of a plurality of object files in an application. Bowman merely discloses using time stamps at a help desk to assist in logging and processing inquiries to the help desk. (Page 68, ¶ 2165-2172).

Bowman does not disclose a module configured to compare embedded time stamps within the plurality of object files. Finally, Bowman does not disclose a way to generate an error in response to two or more of the object files having different time stamps.

As previously discussed, Ching merely discloses a hierarchal document comparison system. The comparison system does not disclose the use of time stamps to identify a version of a software developers kit used to create a plurality of object files within an application.

In contrast, the present invention discloses a software development kit configured to facilitate a development of an application comprising a plurality of object files. Claim 17 reads, in part:

a time stamp being utilized to identify a corresponding version of the software development kit for each of the plurality of object files; and

at least one module configured to embed the time stamp within at least two of the plurality of object files, wherein the application developed with the software development kit is configured to generate an error in response to two or more of the object files having different time stamps.

Combining the teachings of Bowman and Ching would necessarily result in a different invention than that which is claimed above. Therefore, rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

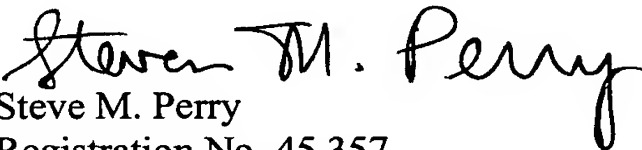
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-21 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Steve Perry at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

No claims were added. Therefore, no additional fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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Respectfully submitted,


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